

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An image detecting method comprises the steps
of: a) searching for a pattern satisfying a
predetermined commencement requirement by scanning an
5 input image; b) using the pattern as a starting point,
with referring to a dictionary storing therein distances
between the center line and an edge of a detection
target semicircle, determining for each of a
predetermined number of main scan lines along a sub-scan
10 direction whether or not a predetermined edge pattern
occurs within a respective range of the distance of the
dictionary; and c) determining a detection of the
semicircle when the number of error lines on which the
predetermined edge pattern does not occur within the
15 respective range of the distance of the dictionary is
less than a predetermined threshold.